
THE CHILTERN ASSOCIATION OF CAMERA CLUBS

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The Rosebowl Competition How the Draw is Made

The Rosebowl Competition is open to all CACC Clubs, but not all choose to take part. Requests to be added to the draw should be made to the Rosebowl Organiser (Jenny King – see Yearbook).

There are three rounds for Rosebowl matches, and Clubs are placed into groups for each round. The preferred number of Clubs in a match is four, but some matches have three Clubs because there is not an exact multiple of four in the total number.

Every match needs a host Club, and Clubs are only expected to host once in the season. With three rounds and typically four Clubs per match, some Clubs will not host a match.

The other requirement is that no pair of Clubs compete against one another twice in the season.

These apparently simple requirements are in fact complicated to set up in a pattern of rounds, matches and Clubs. Some years ago, after a lot of working out, a grid plan was devised for 28 Clubs, and another grid plan was devised for 32 Clubs. So far, these two grids are all that has been required, and they have remained unchanged ever since.

Examining the published draw for a year, there is a series of numbers 1-28 (or 1-32), in groups of four for the first round, with the first in each group being the host. Those numbers then appear in a different order for the second round and in another different order for the third round. Tracing the numbers across the rounds, it will be seen that no number is in a hosting position twice, and no pair of numbers appears in the same group again. Some numbers never host a match.

Before the draw, if there is not an exact multiple of four for the number of Clubs, then some of the non-hosting numbers have to be blocked from use. If, occasionally, a Club says it is unable to host, then it will be allocated a non-hosting number before the draw. Otherwise, there is a continuous series of numbers available for the Clubs taking part.

The draw is then simply made by taking the names of the participating Clubs at random, and allocating them sequentially to the available numbers in the first round column. That draw then automatically allocates the Clubs to matches in rounds two and three.

Difficulties can arise if a Club wants to withdraw after the completed grid is published, especially if that Club is hosting or it reduces any match from three Clubs to two. It is a little bit easier if a Club wants to join, as long as there is a space in the grid.